

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO

DATE

June 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/MOD

2.

3.

C/ESG

4.

5.

C/FED

6.

7.

C/ADD

8.

9.

C/HED

10.

11.

C/Computer Operations

12.

13.

14.

15.

Retain/Destroy



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

P.O. Box 199
Mbabane, Swaziland

4 July 1988
FBIS-5811-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Swaziland Bureau--June 1988

STAT

I. GENERAL

A. Editor [] moved out of her Embassy-owned house on 30 June to allow major renovation work to commence. The Embassy plans to replace the roof, repour the patio and completely remodel the kitchen and dining room. Editor [] should be able to move in when the work is completed in late August.

STAT

B. The Bureau's June wordage was the highest since the RSA elections in May 1987 and the second highest total since July 1986, when press restrictions under the RSA state of emergency began to have an impact on news reportage. Fully 60 percent of the publishable wordage was prepared by the monitors on the Bureau's three IBM PC's.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Following a venue dispute, in which the Angolans favored a European location while the South Africans insisted the talks be held in Africa, the third round of the four-nation Angolan peace talks was held in Cairo 24-25 June. RSA Foreign Minister Pik Botha said the talks had established a framework for a regional peace settlement, and his Angolan counterpart agreed that progress had been made. Despite reports that the talks nearly collapsed and were salvaged at the last minute by Soviet intervention to heal a Cuba-Angola rift, the parties agreed to meet again in the United States on 11 July.

2. The Angolan peace talks were given an added sense of urgency on 28 June by a clash between RSA troops and a joint Cuban-Angolan force on the Namibian border. South Africa claimed to have repelled the attack, killing 300 enemy troops; and admitted losing 12 soldiers in a subsequent air attack. Angola disputed the casualty claims and labeled South Africa as the aggressor. The fighting followed weeks of mounting tension as South Africa mobilized its reserves in response to the continued southward advance of Cuban and Angolan troops.

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3. Nearly 2 million blacks joined the biggest strike in RSA history on 6-8 June to protest the government clampdown on trade unions and organizations fighting apartheid. The 3-day work stayaway was marked by stone and firebomb attacks on trains and buses, but police restrictions on press coverage made accurate reporting impossible. The violence and black worker boycott were repeated on a smaller scale on 16 June, the anniversary of the 1976 Soweto uprising.

4. On 10 June, South African President P.W. Botha renewed the state of emergency, in effect since June 1986, for another 12 months, and announced sweeping new regulations aimed at the "alternative" media. The action comes in the wake of over 100 terrorist attacks since the beginning of the year, which the government blames on the ANC. On 3 June a bomb killed four people and injured 19 in Roodepoort; and a "massive" car bomb explosion at a Johannesburg sports stadium on 2 July left 2 dead and 40 wounded.

5. South African interference with its neighbors continued on 21 June when Botswana police surprised an RSA commando group near their common border. In the ensuing shooting, 2 Botswana police were wounded; and later two of the seven raiders were captured.

B. Technical

Three Comscribe printers have been installed, two in the communications section and the other on the SAPA wire; and are providing welcome relief from the problems the Bureau has been experiencing with its aging Extels.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. New junior editor [] arrived PCS on 28 June. He replaces [] who departs PCS to Headquarters on 15 July.

STAT
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2. Afrikaans Monitor [] was taken off training status and promoted to FBN 8/1 on 7 June. Teletypist [] was promoted to FBN 6/4 on 3 July. Monitor supervisors [] and [] monitor [] and teletypists [] and [] received PSI's during the month.

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IV. VISITS

Headquarters Budget and Finance Officer [] visited the Bureau on TDY 11-13 June.

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[]
Chief, Swaziland Bureau

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